

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in this application. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The term referred to by the Examiner in section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action is modified above in the manner suggested. The word "clenching" in the term referred to by the Examiner adequately identifies the operation at issue, and additional terminology is not necessary.

Claim 6 is amended above after consideration of the comments provided by the Examiner in section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action. All claims of this application now fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The allowance of claim 5 is acknowledged with appreciation. The indication provided in section 9 on page 5 of the Office Action that certain other claims of this application contain allowable subject matter is also acknowledged. It is respectfully submitted, however, that, for reasons discussed below, all of the claims now in this application are presently allowable.

Claims 1, 3, 9, and 10 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,419,146 B1 to Buldhaupt et al. Reconsideration is requested.

The Buldhaupt et al. patent relates to production of a sandwich structure which is implemented by arrangement of two or more mutually spaced, horizontally extending plate bars, and vertical walls situated between the latter and bridging the respective spacing. By way of this structure, tube-shaped hollow areas, bounded by the horizontal plate bars and the vertical walls, are formed. In the Buldhaupt et al. sandwich structure, the vertical walls form reinforcing elements for the overall construction of the sandwich structure. However, in the Buldhaupt et al. structure, the vertical walls are brought in as early as during assembly of the sandwich structure. The present invention, by contrast, concerns hollow sections which are closed on their peripheries and which are to be reinforced subsequently.

Figure 16 of the Buldhaupt et al. patent, referred to specifically by the Examiner, shows a structure which is not a hollow section closed around its periphery. The illustrated structure, instead, is only a plate structure. Figure 16 fails to show openings, visible in a hollow section, into which a reinforcing plate can be inserted. Only one opening is present in the core pack 145, by which the core pack can be pushed onto the shoulder 126 of the rigid stepped block 120. Again, Figure 16 of the Buldhaupt et al. patent does not show a hollow section, with a continuous periphery, in which an opening is provided in order to provide for insertion of a reinforcing plate through the formed opening into the interior of the hollow section. The Buldhaupt et al. structure is not a reinforced hollow section with a continuous periphery produced by the particular "forming," "inserting," and "joining" operations specified in claim 1. The rejection of claim 1 based on the Buldhaupt et al. patent should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 3, 9, and 10 based on the Buldhaupt et al. patent should also be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 11, and 12 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,134,767 to Schulze. Reconsideration is requested. Although the Schulze patent discloses a hollow section with a closed periphery, no reinforcing plates can be arranged in that hollow section as the Examiner suggests. The Schulze connection elements 14, 34 and 50 are not reinforcing elements. These connection elements are adapted to provide linking points for attaching parts to the hollow section with the closed periphery; such connection elements, for example, can be screwed to respective attaching parts. These connection elements do not constitute reinforcing plates which project into a hollow section as the present invention provides. The exact location of the flanged portion 27, referred to by the Examiner in section 5 on page 4 of the Office Action, is also unclear. Figure 1 of the Schulze patent, which the Examiner refers to, has nothing to do with a hollow section with a closed periphery. That figure, instead, relates to a flat plate bar which is to be reshaped. The Schulze patent does not

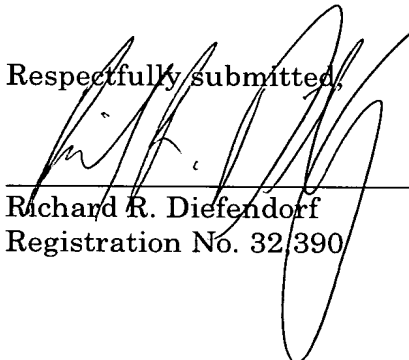
concern a reinforced hollow section with a continuous periphery produced by the particular "forming," "inserting," and "joining" operations specified in claim 1, and nothing properly relied on by the Examiner suggests modifying the connection element embedding method forming the subject matter of the Schulze patent to produce such a reinforced hollow section by way of such operations. The rejection of claim 1 based on the Schulze patent should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 3, 11, and 12 based on the Schulze patent should also be withdrawn.

This application is in condition for allowance in its present form for reasons discussed above. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

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CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD/msy

Respectfully submitted,



Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390